(e) and (f) Yes, Sir. However the police officials allegedly involved in the incident were not posted in the aforesaid Special Task Froce. Both the plicemen concerned have since been arrested and dismissed from service.

Import of Wheat and Rice

4758. SHRI SURENDRA YADAV :
SHRI NAWAL KISHORE RAI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had imported wheat and rice in 1996-97 in order to meet the requirement of food-grains in the country;

(b) if so, the total quantity of wheat and rice imported from various countries upto April, 1997;

(c) the quantity of wheat and rice reached India upto April, 1997 in this import process;

(d) the quantity of wheat and rice for which agreement had been signed for the future import, country-wise; and

(e) the money paid/to be paid for importing wheat to each country?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) Government have imported only wheat during 1996-97.

(b) and (c) Against the 16.75 lakh tonnes of wheat contracted for import from Australia, Canada and Argentina, a quantity of 14.43 lakh tonnes has arrived at Indian Ports upto 30th April, 1997.

(d) The State Trading Corporation of India has contracted for import of an additional quantity of 10 lakh tonnes of wheat from Australia during 1997-98 with shipment schedule from July to December, 1997.

(e) The quantity of wheat contracted for import from each country together with the rate at which contracted are given below :

Country	Quantity (in lakh MT)	Date of contract	Rate in US$ PMT
Australia	10.00	10.12.96	148.00 FOB
Canada	2.50	11.12.96	152.50 FOB
Australia	1.25	31.01.97	156.00 FOB
Argentina	1.00	04.02.97	173.00 C&F
Australia	2.00	14.02.97	156.00 FOB
Australia	2.50	26.03.97	155.00 FOB
	7.50	26.03.97	154.25 FOB

[English]

Disabled Persons

4759. SHRI CHHITUBHAI GAMIT : Will the Minister of WELFARE be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Joint Action Committee for the Rights of the Disabled has expressed disappointment regarding the budget allocations for the disabled and submitted a memorandum to the Government to this effect;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the reaction of the Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF WELFARE (SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Joint Action Committee for memorandum dated 5.3.1997 have demanded, *inter alia*, the allocation for the Handicapped Welfare Division of the Welfare Ministry and the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation must be increased to Rs. 100 crore and Rs. 200 crore respectively for the year 1997-98 and appropriate allocations may be made in other key Ministries also. An allocation of at least Rs. 100 crore has also been demanded under Rail Budget for the year 1997-98.

(c) After vigorous pursuasion with the Planning Commission, the allocation proposed for the Handicapped Welfare Division of the Welfare Ministry has been increased to Rs. 107.04 crores (Plan) during 1997.98 which includes Rs. 28.00 crore for the National Handicapped Finance and Development Corporation. Other Ministries have also been requested to make appropriate provision in their budgetary allocations.

Conservation of Mujali Island

4760. DR. ARUN KUMAR SARMA : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for Eco-Stabilisation and conservation of Mujali Island in Assam was received by the Government for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan; and

(b) if so, the amount earmarked during the Ninth Plan including allocation during current financial year?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) No proposal for Eco-Stabilisation and conservation of Mujali Island in Assam for inclusion in the Ninth Five Year Plan has been received in this Ministry.

(b) Question does not arise.